



**An undenominational publication  
devoted to the teachings of Jesus and  
His apostles and dedicated to those  
who seek the truth.**

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## **"I'M NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL"**

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes" (Romans 1:16, King James Version).*

When I look back on my life, I can see God's hand in all of it. God is so good all the time, whether in good times or bad. His perfect plan may not make sense to us and it is not our place to try to figure it out, but to believe in Him and to not be ashamed to confess Him at every opportunity.

In 1 Peter 5:6-7 God tells us: *"Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon Him; for He cares for you."* If we humble ourselves, engulf His word, and have great pride in praising Him, He shall reward us because we are not ashamed of God, but love Him.

How, then, do we overcome feelings of shame when we are ridiculed for believing and sharing the Gospel? Answer: ponder the power of the Gospel to bring forgiven sinners to everlasting joy. Nothing in the world can do this except the gospel of Jesus Christ. It alone is the power of God unto salvation. It is the most loving thing in the world to tell the truth about the way of salvation. The Gospel of Christ alone is the power of God unto salvation and we must never be ashamed to stand up for God and His Son Jesus Christ. We can get on the right track to paradise and eternal life by coming to Him on bended knee, accepting Him as our personal Savior, repenting of our sins and being baptized in water *"for the forgiveness of sins"* to acknowledge the shedding of His blood for our sins and then come forth from the waters to live a new life in Jesus (Acts 2:38). We can move forward with the word of God as the guide to living the best life possible in Him and thus assuring ourselves of an eternal life with Jesus our Lord and King.

When we do this, our eyes and hearts shall be opened to a whole new world where wisdom abounds and the abundant love of God and His Son Jesus become constant as we look forward to eternal life without fear of anything.

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If I can bring but one soul to Jesus and that soul becomes saved, everything I do here in praise for God and His Son will be worth it. My greatest hope is that all who read my message will find Jesus.

Jesus said: *“Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”* (Matthew 6:33).

*“Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels”* (Mark 8:38).

*“Whoever will save his life shall lose it; but whoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it”* (Mark 8:35).

*“If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf”* (1 Peter 4:16).



— **Jeffrey B. McBreairty**  
**New Milford, Connecticut**

Mr. McBreairty is commander of the American Legion Post 1672 in New Milford, Connecticut.  
He is a daily Bible reader.



# WHERE DO I START?

- You start Bible study by getting an easy to read and accurate version of the Bible like the *English Standard Version*. Open your Bible to the table of contents. The sixty six books of the Bible are divided into Old Testament and New Testament sections. The Old Testament starts with creation and then tells the story of God's selection of a people, Israel, to keep a knowledge of the Creator God alive in a world of false gods. The New Testament begins with the story of Jesus and His early followers and ends with a vision of the future in the book of *Revelation*.
- The best place to start your reading is with the central character of the Bible, Jesus, who is the Son of the God. There are four accounts of the life of Christ: *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke*, and *John*. I would recommend that you start with the Gospel of *Luke*. *Luke* is part one of a two part writing. The second is the book of *Acts*. *Luke* tells us what Jesus taught and did, while *Acts* tells the story of Jesus followers after Christ's resurrection and return to God. You can use the table of contents to find the exact location of the Gospel of *Luke*.
- Find a time during your week when you will not be distracted and set it aside for your Bible reading. Start each Bible reading with a prayer asking God to give you understanding of His will as you read. Underline important points in the Bible as you read it. If you have any questions be sure to write them down and feel free to contact us with any questions. Once you have read *Luke* and *Acts* you will have an overview of the message of the New Testament. This will allow you to have an informed faith that comes from the very Word of God. Do not procrastinate. Begin today to plan to read the Bible for yourself. It will be life transforming, if you make Bible reading and prayer a part of every week. "*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*" ( 2 Timothy 3:16). Prayer and Bible study will enable you to have good spiritual health.

— Bruce Wadzeck  
Church of Christ, Princeton, New Jersey

# NO OTHER GOSPEL

The world is unpredictable with infectious diseases, economic uncertainty and religious confusion. It is challenging to find spiritual stability, happiness and unchanging truth. Cults and false religious leaders abound. Claims are made that man-made spiritual books and rules are as good as or even superior to the Bible. How does a person keep from being led astray?

A Christian finds strength by leaning on God and building life on the teachings of the Bible. Placing faith in God gives a sure hope of eternal security. Jesus promised: *“You will know the truth and the truth will set you free”* (John 8:32).

This assurance and hope is guaranteed by promises of the “Gospel” (“Good News”) of Christ. This Gospel tells us the plan of salvation and redemption God put in place through His Son Jesus Christ.



The Scripture is the true and pure message from God. It is a pathway that Jesus made leading to eternal life. This message has stood the test of time for over 2000 years, and today is a beacon in the storm and a light in the darkness.

Unfortunately some religious leaders have distorted God’s Gospel by removing, adding or changing it’s message. They have added creeds, catechisms and councils to “improve” on the authentic message of the Gospel. But how can anyone improve on what God has provided? Only the “Gospel” contains words of life given through the inspired writers of the New Testament. The inspired Apostle Paul saw the dangers of altering the Gospel and wrote a strong warning:

*“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed”* (Galatians 1:8-9).

When human beings change what God’s Book (the Bible) says they change God’s roadmap to a good life now and eternal life in the world to come.

**Nathaniel Hios  
Church of Christ, Kittery, Maine**

# THE GOSPEL SAVES



There are things people say that get our attention, like, “you must have this surgery if you want to live.” That is a “life or death” statement.

There are some “life or death” statements in the Bible that should get our attention. For example, the Bible says: “*those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus... will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction*” (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). It is imperative to believe in and obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

What are the facts of the Gospel? Paul tells us “*Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ **died** for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was **buried**, that He was **raised** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures*” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). The Gospel saves. The basic facts of the Gospel: Christ *died* for our sins, was *buried*, and was *raised* on the third day. It’s the heart of the Gospel!

The Gospel of Christ is important! “*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received.*” Many important things are taught in the Bible, such as morality, the church, family-life, worship and loving God and others. Everything the Bible teaches is important. However, the things that are most important are the facts of the gospel. These are of “*first importance.*” Obedience to the teachings of Christ rests on acceptance of these basic truths. Commitment to the fundamental facts of the gospel is necessary to obtain salvation from sin, Because the facts are true, we are motivated to live an obedient Christian life. By obeying the Gospel we receive the blessings God has promised to the saved.

After hearing the Gospel message in Acts 2, the people were “*cut to the heart*” and were “*baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins*” (Acts 2:37-38). The Scripture says: “*The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved*” (Acts 2:47). When given the option to choose eternal life or death, choose eternal life and obey the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

— Ron Saracino  
Church of Christ, Trumbull, Connecticut

# THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

In my opinion, one of the prettiest sounding words in the Spanish language is the word, “Esperanza”. Not only is it a pleasing word spoken to the ear, but it’s also filled with beauty and optimism. In the English language the word “Esperanza” is translated, “Hope”. We live in times of hopelessness and yet, there is good news for all who put their hope in Jesus.



Peter wrote to Christians in the midst of trouble exalting the Lord: *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to receive an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for salvation ready to be revealed at the last time.”* (1 Peter 1:3–4).

Our hope is rooted in the fact that Jesus gave His life, made atonement for sins through the cross, was buried, and on the third day rose again, demonstrating the power of God over sin and death. We have a *“living hope.”* The Bible teaches that Christians have forgiveness at conversion and continues to have Jesus to intercede on their behalf whenever they fall short.

Peter talks about an *“imperishable, undefiled and unfading inheritance.”* When we think about preparing for the end of our days, we often put our expectations in things like retirement plans, but an unstable market can cause us to lose out on what we invested. Not so with the spiritual deposit that is kept in heaven for all who live by faith in Jesus Christ! This hope is grounded in the fact that God keeps His promises! The writer of Hebrews declares, *“We have... this Hope... set before us”* as a *“steadfast anchor of the soul”* (Hebrews 6:18-19).

Do you have this beautiful and enduring hope? Jesus calls out, *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light”* (Matthew 11:28-30).

— Bud Fenner  
Church of Christ, Meriden, Connecticut

# THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

Wherever Jesus went He was “teaching and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people” (Matthew 4:23). He was announcing the good news of the kingdom, and then teaching them the implications of His announcement for their lives and what they must do to be able to enter that kingdom. John the Baptist was preaching “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:1-3). Jesus revealed that many who were there would not die until they had seen the kingdom come with power (Mark 9:1).

The kingdom had been prophesied to arrive in the days of the Roman kings (Daniel 2:44). Jesus explained that His kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36). From Acts to Revelation the kingdom is spoken of as a present reality. When Jesus returns, He will gather up the kingdom to present to the Father after having placed His last enemy, death, under his feet (1 Corinthians 15:24-26).

The implications of the good news of the kingdom is that Jesus is reigning (1 Timothy 6:15-16), having been coronated in heaven (Acts 2:36) offers forgiveness for our sins upon belief (Mark 16:16), repentance (Acts 3:19), and baptism (Acts 2:37-38). Jesus told us to “make disciples” of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to observe all that He commanded (Matthew 28:18-20).

Jesus healed the people of various diseases to prove His authority over the chaos created by the Fall and cast out demons to show His authority over all creation. In fact, as Peter spoke at the transfiguration, God overruled him and said “*This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased, listen to Him!*” We are held accountable for the words Jesus spoke (Acts 3:22-23). Belief makes the power available (John 1:12). Have you given your life to God?

—Neal Noey  
Church of Christ, South Paris, Maine



# WE MUST NOT TAKE THE GOSPEL FOR GRANTED

*“God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might ....” (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9).*

Every passage of Scripture has its context and we are wise to consider the context of a passage or verse when we study. As the Apostle Paul offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the saints in Thessalonica he wrote of the Gospel they had obeyed and the Faith they held as they faced persecution and tribulation.

There will always be those who find the gospel distasteful, both then and now. In one brief verse Paul addresses the eternal state of those who choose to not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a very serious offence in the sight of God to take His divinely inspired Gospel for granted. The Gospel is intended to enrich our earthly lives, and the consequences of failing to obey the Gospel are tragic.

Our paragraph from Paul’s 1st letter to the Thessalonians reveals much.

- First, the gospel is that which is to be obeyed. God is not vague regarding the gospel, in fact the appeal of the gospel is found in the great expression of His love to all mankind in Jesus upon the cross.

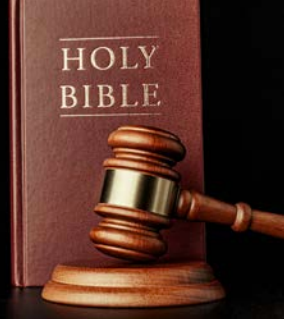
- The next thought found in our text reveals that mankind has been created with the ability to choose. We may choose good or bad, right or wrong.

- Another thought provided by Paul is that of consequences; we will live with the choice we make.

- One last thought, not “*knowing*” God does not necessarily imply total ignorance of God because the Scripture pairs not “*knowing*” with not “*obeying*.” Not knowing means not knowing God in a saved relationship that obeys out of love for God. So when Paul speaks of God’s vengeance upon the disobedient he is speaking of God’s own righteous judgment. God is indeed just in his judgment.



# AUTHORITY OF THE GOSPEL



We live in days of “information overload”. Many are confused and tempted to say, “What is truth?” and live accordingly, drifting aimlessly like feathers in the wind. Unfortunately, many churches do the same. My wife heard someone boasting about her church saying, “You should come along with us. You can do whatever you want.” We cannot help but ask: When one does whatever he wants to do, is he really pleasing God?

If you are looking for a church, it’s vitally important to find one that honors and obeys the Gospel.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Christians in Corinth, saying, “*Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you **received**, in which you **stand**, and by which you are **being saved**, if you **hold fast** to the word I preached to you— **unless you believed in vain**” (1 Corinthians 15:1-2).*

Here we learn: (1) The Gospel “*saves*” us; (2) We must “*receive*” it. (3) We “*stand*” in the Gospel and “*hold fast*” its truths; and if we don’t, (4) We have “*believed in vain*”. The Gospel contains:

- **Facts to be believed**
- **Commandments to be obeyed**
- **Promises to be received**
- **Warnings to be heeded**

*“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins **in accordance with the Scriptures**, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day **in accordance with the Scriptures**” (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).*

The trustworthiness of the Gospel is rooted in the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures. Jesus’ death for our sins and His resurrection were “*according to the Scriptures*”. These events fulfilled over 300 prophecies of Old Testament Scriptures! The Scriptures are “*inspired by God*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Search for spiritual leaders who take the Bible seriously, who respect its authority. Check out the Church of Christ in your community. You will hear the whole Gospel!

# gospel

Never be content with your current-grasp of the Gospel. The gospel is the life-permeating, world-altering, universe-changing truth. It has more facets than a diamond.”

— **C.L. Mahaney**

“The Gospel offers forgiveness for the past, new life for the present, and hope for the future.”

— **John Sentamu**

“The purpose of the Gospel is to make bad men good and good men better, and to change human nature.”

— **David O McKay**

“While Christians choose to spend their lives fulfilling the American dream instead of giving their lives to proclaiming the kingdom of God, literally billions in need of the Gospel remain in the dark.”

— **David Platt**

“The difference between cheap-grace doctrines of guilt-free existence and the Christian Gospel is this: Modern chauvinism desperately avoids the message of guilt. Christianity listens to the message of guilt by conscientious self-examination. Hedonism winks at sin. Christianity earnestly confesses sin. Secularism assumes it can extricate itself from gross misdeeds. Christianity looks to grace for divine forgiveness. Modern naturalism sees no need for God. Christianity celebrates God’s willingness to suffer for our sins and redeem us from guilt.”

— **Thomas C. Oden**

“The gospel by which individuals come to personal faith and transformation spoken of in the New Testament, is the personalizing of the larger challenge: the call to every child, woman, and man to submit in faith to the lordship of the crucified and risen Jesus and so to become, through baptism and membership in the body of Christ, a living, breathing anticipation of the final new creation itself.”

— **N.T. Wright**

“We make a fatal mistake when we try to force Scripture to offer redemption to those who want to go to heaven but who don’t want a relationship with the living God. By trying to offer some minimal standard of conduct that will allow them to qualify for salvation while continuing to pursue their own agendas, we distort the gospel and destroy its power, and we concoct legalistic games to give them a false sense of security.”

— **Wayne Jacobsen**

“If I had to sum up the Gospel I should have to tell you certain facts: Jesus, the Son of God, became man; He was born of the virgin Mary; lived a perfect life; was falsely accused of men; was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God; from whence He shall also come to judge the living and the dead.”

— **Charles H. Spurgeon**

“Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.”

— **Jesus (Mark 16:15-16)**

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